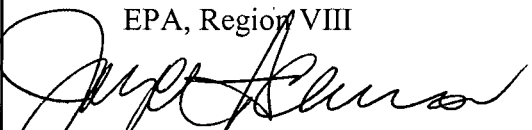


SDMS Document ID



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RECORD OF COMMUNICATION	Phone call <u>X</u> Discussion__ Conference__ Other:____	
TO: Mary Throne, attorney representing Def-Tech (307) 634-1525	FROM: Joyce M. Ackerman EPA, Region VIII 	Date: 3-25-03
		Time:

Summary of Conversation: Mary Throne called to ask me some technical questions regarding EPA's Def-Tech site. The following is a brief summary of my answers to her questions:

- * How did EPA get involved in this site? Local citizens/residents contacted EPA regarding releases of tear gas.
- * The 104(e) information request was the result of EPA's investigation? The 104(e) was a part of EPA's investigation.
- * What is the status of EPA's investigation? I have concluded that, based on EPA's sampling data, no urgent threat is present and the site does not warrant a Superfund removal action. I have concluded my investigation, unless new information is presented. I can only speak for the removal program - I can't speak for any other program, i.e., EPCRA.
- * Have I drawn any conclusions regarding the releases of tear gas and their threat? What criteria did I use to make my decision? I have drawn the conclusion that no Superfund removal action is warranted based on the sampling data I have. Decisions regarding removal actions depend on the site. Many criteria are used, such as drinking water impacts, food chain impacts, etc. Sometimes sites fall into a "black hole" where contamination may be present but not be a candidate for a removal action, and then the site may be addressed by a different program, or may not fall into the jurisdiction of any particular program.
- * Is there a groundwater threat? EPA's data did not show a groundwater threat.
- * Results of EPA's investigation? EPA's investigation found detections of tear gas and one of its precursors on the Mayo property.
- * Did I draw any inferences about the releases of tear gas? I did not draw any inferences, I have just relied on the facts I have. Def-Tech stated they released tear gas on three occasions, EPA found detections of tear gas off-site, and Def-Tech stated they were building an indoor testing facility.
- * Do I know much about breakdown of tear gas in the environment? I have seen one reference in some literature that stated tear gas broke down within 60 days at one site. EPA found tear gas at the Def-Tech site more than 60 days after the last release. We did not find tear gas during our second soil sampling, but did find a tear gas precursor.
- * Who else at EPA was involved at the site, i.e., Chris Weis and Aubrey Miller? Chris Weis was the toxicologist and Aubrey Miller was with the Public Health Service. I asked their advice regarding the chemicals and human exposure.
- * Are the concentrations in soil a concern? I do not believe the concentrations are a concern that should trigger a soil cleanup under the removal program. We do not know what the original levels might have been at the time of release.
- * Did Chris Weis and Aubrey Miller express concerns about the higher levels? I can't speak for them.

- * Was anybody else at EPA involved in the removal program investigation? No
- * Did we investigate the mud puppies? The green meat? I was told about the mud puppies and looked at the pond, but did not investigate. EPA did not investigate the green meat.
- * What residents did I talk to? Quite a few residents, plus two public meetings.
- * Did I talk to George Pridham? Yes, plus a number of other residents.
- * Who organized the public meetings? It was a joint planning effort between EPA, the Casper/Natrona County Health Department and the Wyoming DEQ.
- * Who were my contacts at those agencies? Bob Harrington and Chris Hanify.
- * Who was my contact at Def-Tech? Dave DuBay.
- * What was discussed at the public meetings? It was so long ago I don't really remember. We probably talked about the data. We also offered some blood and urine testing.
- * Did anybody take us up on the blood and urine testing? Yes.
- * What were the residents' concerns? I am uncomfortable answering that - it would be speculation on my part as to what they were feeling and thinking.
- * Am I still getting complaints? I get occasional calls from residents, but I tell them that the EPA removal program will not conduct further action unless new information comes forward.
- * The Wyoming RCRA program could require corrective action if necessary, couldn't they? Yes, they are delegated that program.
- * Is the RCRA program conducting an investigation? I have no idea.